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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ LPA 458/2026 & CM Nos.39837/2026 & 39839/2026

ANUSH AGARWALLA

.....Appellant

Through: Mr. Rahul Mehra, Sr. Adv. with Ms. Astha Sharma, Ms. Anju Thomas, Ms. Mantika Haryani, Ms. Pratibha Yadav, Mr. Bhanu Mishra, Ms. Jyotika, Mr. Chaitanya Gosain and Mr. Hanif Chimthanawala, Advs.

Versus

AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNANCE OF EQUESTRIAN
FEDERATION OF INDIA AND ORS

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Udit Dedhiya, Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. R.V. Prabhat, Mr. Shubham Sharma, Mr. Yash Wardhan Sharma, Mr. Naman, Ms. Apurva Sachdev and Mr. Preyansh Gupta, Advs. for UOI. Ms. Geetika Vyas, Adv. for IOA. Mr. Shiv Verma, Adv. for R-5,6&7. Mr. Kirat Singh Nagra, Mr. Kartik Yadav & Ms. Sumedha Chadha, Advs. for R-8.

AND

+ LPA 459/2026 & CM Nos.39840/2026 & 39842/2026

SUDIPTI HAJELA

.....Appellant

Through: Mr. Kirtiman Singh, Sr. Adv. with Ms. Kritika Gupta, Mr. Mohit Kumar Sharma, Mr. Ritwik Saha, Mr. Maulik Khurana, Advs. along with Petitioner in person through VC.

Versus

EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION OF INDIA & ORS.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Kapil Modi, Ms. Niyati Kohli and Mr. Rishabh Parikh, Advs. for R-1&2. Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Udit Dedhiya, Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr.



R.V. Prabhat, Mr. Shubham Sharma,
Mr. Yash Wardhan Sharma, Mr.
Naman, Ms. Apurva Sachdev and Mr.
Preyansh Gupta, Advs. for UOI.
Ms. Geetika Vyas, Adv. for IOA.
Mr. Kirat Singh Nagra, Mr. Kartik
Yadav & Ms. Sumedha Chadha,
Advs. for R-3.
Mr. Shiv Verma, Adv. for R-5,6&7.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TEJAS KARIA

ORDER

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02.07.2026

CM No.39838/2026 in LPA 458/2026 & CM No.39841/2026 in LPA 459/2026 (both for exemption)

1. Exemption is allowed, subject to all just exceptions.
2. The Applications stand disposed of.

CAV No.283/2026 in LPA 459/2026

3. The learned Counsel for the Caveator / Respondent has appeared.
4. The Caveat stands discharged.

LPA 458/2026 & LPA 459/2026

5. In terms of our order passed yesterday, Mr. Udit Dedhiya, learned Counsel representing the Union of India (“**UOI**”) has been instructed to state before the Court that having regard to the overall facts and circumstances of the instant case, UOI is ready to undertake the process of evaluation of the ranking of the six athletes who are proposed to participate in Asian Games with the help of Sports Authority of India (“**SAI**”) and Indian Olympic Association (“**IOA**”).



6. So far as the logistical difficulty in holding the competition in terms of Clause 15(b) of the Guidelines for selection is concerned, it has been stated by Mr. Udit Dedhiya, on instructions, that the process is so cumbersome that it may not be possible to organize any such event by 12.07.2026.

7. The learned Counsel for the Appellants in both these Appeals consented to the said proposal / submission made on behalf of UOI and it is in the light of these developments that the Court required the learned Counsel representing the Ad-hoc Committee of Equestrian Federation of India (“EFI”) to seek instructions so as to find out an amicable solution to the issues which have emerged in these Appeals and whether the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI is agreeable to the suggestion put forth on behalf of UOI.

8. Mr. Kapil Modi, learned Counsel representing the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI, on instructions, stated that the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI would prefer to contest these Appeals on merits. In other words, the Ad-hoc Committee has not consented to the proposal tendered by the UOI.

9. Ms. Geetika Vyas, learned Counsel representing the IOA, on instructions, states that IOA lacks the requisite expertise in organizing any such selection process.

10. *Prima facie*, the proposal tendered by UOI appears to be a welcome step for resolution of the impasse which has been created in these matters. However, in absence of the consent to the said proposal by the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI, we are unable to pass any order acceptable to all concerned.

11. Under the current legal regime, it is the Executive Committee of a National Sports Federation which undertakes the selection process. It



appears that since EFI was not having a duly elected Executive Body, the IOA on the direction of this Court in W.P.(C) No.10342/2019 and other connected matters, appointed the Ad-hoc Committee on 27.03.2026. The term of the said Ad-hoc Committee, as stated at the bar, was three months which has come to an end on 27.06.2026. On query as to on what basis the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI is continuing to discharge functions which otherwise are to be performed by a duly elected body of EFI, Mr. Kapil Modi, learned Counsel representing the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI has stated that he needs to ascertain the said facts.

12. In any case, the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI has been constituted by the IOA, of course, under the orders of this Court and, therefore, the IOA will have supervisory powers over the functions performed by the Ad-hoc Committee of EFI.

13. In the aforesaid view of the matters, we request the President of IOA to nominate its Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) to remain personally present before this Court for providing assistance in these matters so that an amicable and practical solution may be found to the issues which concern not only the Court but all other stakeholders. In case, the CEO of IOA is not available to attend the proceedings of this Court tomorrow, i.e., 03.07.2026, the President of IOA shall nominate any other higher-ranking official of IOA who shall remain personally present in the Court for assistance of the Court. We also direct the Parties to come prepared on all other aspects of the matters.



14. List tomorrow, that is 03.07.2026. The matters be placed “*High on Board*”.

DEVENDRA KUMAR UPADHYAYA, CJ

TEJAS KARIA, J

JULY 2, 2026
‘gsr’